

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 SR-02

ORM-03 RSR-01 /184 W

----- 038119

R 081655Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6828

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UV

SUBJ: PERMANENT INTERSTATE COMMITTEE

FOR JOINT STATE/AID ATTENTION

1. DELIGHTED TO WELCOME PIC AS USEFUL ACRONYM FOR
PERMANENT INTERSTATE COMMITTEE.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WE HAVE FOR SOME TIME
QUESTIONED THE ROLE AND VIABILITY OF THE PIC, THE DEGREE
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OF SAHEL STATE INTEREST IN IT EXCEPT AS A MEANS OF

OBTAINING MORE AID, THE NATURE OF DAKOURE'S LEADERSHIP, ETC. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER SAHEL STATES ARE INCREASINGLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT PIC, DOUBTLESS ASKING WHETHER IT EXISTS MORE IN MIND OF CHAIRMAN DAKOURE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE.

3. HAVE HAD OCCASION IN PAST 24 HOURS TO QUESTION KONATE (ONLY PIC MEMBER WHO ISN'T FULLTIME AT SOMETHING ELSE), MENSAH (REGIONAL FAO REPRESENTATIVE), AND CHRISTOPHE OUEDRAOGO (DAKOURE'S CABINET DIRECTOR) CONCERNING ACTIVITIES AND ROLE OF COMMITTEE. THEY ECHO WHAT KONATE TOLD BOB SMITH AND ME DURING SMITH'S RECENT VISIT, I.E., COMMITTEE IS NOT REALLY PERMANENT AT ALL. IT'S A KIND OF FLOATING COLLECTION OF AFRICAN TECHNICIANS AND SERVICE DIRECTORS FROM THE SIX SAHEL STATES, ALL OF WHOM KEEP ALL THEIR REGULAR RESPONSIBILITIES BUT INTEND TO MEET TOGETHER PERIODICALLY "TO COORDINATE PROJECTS OF A REGIONAL NATURE." KONATE SAYS "WE WANT TO STAY FLEXIBLE, WE DON'T WANT A COMPLICATED INFRASTRUCTURE." DAKOURE SAYS "WE'LL ASK FOR FOREIGN TECHNICIANS WHEN WE FEEL A NEED OF THEM, AND WE CERTAINLY DON'T NEED THE KIND OF FOREIGN TECHNICIANS WHO COST A LOT OF MONEY AND DON'T DO ANYTHING MORE USEFUL THAN ADD TO THE STACKS OF UNIMPLEMENTED PROJECT PROPOSALS."

4. CONTRARY TO FORT LAMY'S 1249, MENSAH INSISTS THAT ALL SIX COUNTRIES WERE INVITED TO RECENT PIC/FAO MEETING IN ABIDJAN ON TRANSPORT NEEDS. HE EVEN READ ME REPLIES, INCLUDING THAT FROM CHADIAN DROUGHT COORDINATOR. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED, HOWEVER, BY THE LACK OF INTEREST THESE REPLIES REVEALED. FURTHERMORE, IT IS NO SECRET IN OUAGADOUGOU THAT ALL THE WORK IN PREPARATION FOR THE ABIDJAN MEETING WAS DONE BY THE FAO WITHOUT ANY PIC INPUT WHATEVER OTHER THAN KONATE'S CHAIRMANSHIP.

5. THREE DAYS AFTER ABIDJAN TRANSPORT MEETING, AND ONLY AFTER URGING FROM THIS EMBASSY AND OTHER DONORS, KONATE CALLED MEETING UNDER PIC AUSPICES TO BRIEF DONOR REPRESENTATIVES ON RESULTS. HE DID HIS USUAL SMOOTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JOB BUT SAID NOTHING ALREADY KNOWN TO US FROM EXCELLENT REPORTING FROM EMBASSY ABIDJAN, FROM US LOGISTICS TEAM (NIAMEY'S 2404), AND FROM TEAM MEMBERS COL. PAGE AND MAJOR HEMMILA WHO PASSED THROUGH OUAGADOUGOU AUGUST 2. ALTHOUGH KONATE MADE VERY CLEAR THAT MEETING IDENTIFIED NO NEED FOR ADDITIONAL AIRLIFT FROM PORTS TO UPPER VOLTA, NATIONAL DROUGHT SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOANNY TOOK FLOOR FOR LAST-MINUTE PLEA FOR

AIRCRAFT IN VIEW OF WASHOUT ON ROAD SOUTH TO LOAKE VOLTA AND SUBSEQUENT DELAY IN SORGHUM TRUCK ARRIVALS. GERMAN AMBASSADOR SAID HE REGRETTED TWO GERMAN AIRFORCE TRANSALLS WERE LEAVING AND COULD NOT COME BACK, AND POINTEDLY SUGGESTED PERHAPS SOME OTHER COUNTRY SUCH AS US COULD FILL THE GAP. I POINTED OUT THAT MONEY BURNED UP BY A C-130 IN FIVE MINUTES WOULD FINANCE REPAIR OF WASHOUT, AND THAT I REMAINED UNCONVINCED OF NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SORGHUM AIRLIFT IN VIEW EFFICIENT TRANSPORT SYSTEM ALREADY IN OPERATION VIA LAKE VOLTA. FAR MORE IMPORTANT WAS TO KEEP AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE FOR INTERNAL AIRDROP NOW THAT WE HAD A TECHNIQUE THAT WORKED. FED AND FRENCH EMBASSY SUPPORTED MY POSITION, AS DID KONATE AND MENSAH. NO VOLTAN MINISTER WAS PRESENT AT MEETING.

6. MENSAH AGREES THAT WITHOUT BETTER COMMUNICATION FACILITIES PIC MAY FALL FLAT ON ITS FACE BEFORE IT EVER GETS OFF THE GROUND. METAPHORS, IT IS CLEAR THAT MANY FOREIGN AID ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES MAY MISS OR ARRIVE LATE FOR PIC'S AUGUST MEETINGS SINCE MOST OF THE INVITATIONS WERE STILL BEING TYPED LAST NIGHT. MENSAH SAYS PIC MEMBERS HAVE ALL BEEN INVITED BUT ADMITS THAT POOR MAIL SERVICE, PARTICULARLY TO CHAD, MAY RESULT IN WORKING PAPER FOR THE CONFERENCE ARRIVING IN CAPITALS AFTER THE CONFERENCE HAS STARTED.

7. CABINET DIRECTOR OUEDRAOGO SAYS DAKOURE WILL RETURN AUGUST 17, ONE DAY AFTER PIC TECHNICIANS MEETING IS SUPPOSED TO START. HE SAYS "THINGS WILL GO BETTER THEN." IN OUR VIEW, HOWEVER, BEST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO PIC WOULD BE FOR A CHIEF OF STATE LIKE DIORI OR TRAORE TO TAKE IT IN HAND, DUMP DAKOURE, ASSIGN SOME PERMANENT STAFF, ASK MORSE FOR ADDITIONAL EXPERTS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT, STAY RIGORIOUSLY CLEAR OF EMERGENCY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTIONS AND SHORT TERM PROGRAMS, FOCUS ENTIRELY ON BROAD REGIONAL PROBLEMS (INCLUDING THOSE EXTENDING BEYOND THE SIX MEMBER COUNTRIES), AND START WORK ON ORGANIZING KIND OF SCOPE OF WORK PROPOSED BY THE US DELEGATION AT GENEVA. THERE IS LITTLE INDICATION THAT THIS IS THE DIRECTION IN WHICH PIC HEADED.

8. WASHOUT HAS NOW BEEN REPAIRED. SORGHUM TRUCKS ARRIVE EACH DAY, EACH TRUCK AVERAGING NEARLY AS MUCH AS AN AIRPLANE LOAD.
EASUM

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